



Montana Office of Public Instruction  
Linda McCulloch, Superintendent  
[www.opi.mt.gov/IndianEd](http://www.opi.mt.gov/IndianEd)



## **Closing the Achievement Gap Summer Professional Development Grants**

### **What are the Closing the Achievement Gap Summer Professional Development Grants?**

- ✓ The achievement gap that exists in Montana between American Indian students and all other students is an area of great concern around the state and within the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). These unique grants have been established to support districts and schools as they work to close the achievement gap by focusing on data, research and identified needs. Grants will cover costs associated with on-site training and professional development.

### **Who is eligible?**

- ✓ Montana districts and schools with American Indian student populations are eligible. Priority will be given to those schools that are in the Restructuring Phase of the AYP process. Professional development options should match the demonstrated need, which will play a significant role in the selection of awardees.

### **Important information:**

- ✓ The maximum amount is \$10,000 per application. The grant will cover only the cost of trainer fees, travel, accommodations, and per diem. Necessary supplies or materials related to the training can also be covered.
- ✓ Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss the professional development opportunity, its relevance and potential within the school community, including school improvement committees, curriculum committees, grade-level committees, etc.
- ✓ Districts are strongly encouraged to invite neighboring schools' personnel to attend the training, if applicable.
- ✓ Grants will be administered in accordance with the OPI State & Federal Grants Handbook.
- ✓ All tasks must be completed by September 30, 2008. Upon completion of training, the OPI will require a summary that includes basic content and lessons learned through the professional development activity, how the information/lessons learned can be applied within the district or school, and whether the training would be recommended for others.
- ✓ Applications will be reviewed and awarded in the order in which they are received.
- ✓ Applications will be accepted until May 16, 2008. Successful grantees will be notified within two weeks after receipt of their application.

## **How to apply?**

- ✓ Complete the application form.
- ✓ Include any information that relates to the professional development opportunity, including a Web site address.
- ✓ Include narrative (3 page maximum) that addresses the following points:
  - 1) Describe the professional development opportunity, the sponsoring organization(s), and how this information will specifically benefit Indian student achievement efforts in your school or district. Please include any related past efforts by the school or district in the area of student achievement to be specifically addressed and their outcomes (e.g., a student behavior protocol and plan was implemented two years ago but has had little impact on reducing the number of office referrals, detentions or suspensions).
  - 2) Demonstrate achievement gap within the school or district through appropriate data. Data should be representative of the type of professional development being offered (e.g., School-wide math data should be supplied if the grant request is for mathematics program review, etc.).
  - 3) Provide a budget that will outline the trainer fees, costs of travel, accommodations, per diem for meals and any supplies/material needed.
- ✓ The district must also agree to cover any additional funds beyond the grant award that might be required, including teacher stipends.

## **Criteria for selection:**

- ✓ Application form is complete and includes the narrative that addresses each of the three points outlined above.
- ✓ Applications that demonstrate the greatest need through appropriate data sources (census data, school-wide data, OPI data, etc.) will be given highest priority.
- ✓ Schools in the restructuring phase of the AYP process will be given highest priority.

## **Information or Questions Contact:**

- ✓ Mandy Smoker Broaddus  
Indian Student Achievement Specialist  
mbroaddus@mt.gov or (406) 444-3013



Title of professional development opportunity being applied for and sponsoring agency

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Trainer(s) name and Title \_\_\_\_\_

Agency or organization's Web site \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of training \_\_\_\_\_

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Date, times, and location of professional development opportunity \_\_\_\_\_

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Amount requested (\$10,000 max) \_\_\_\_\_

If neighboring school personnel will be invited to attend, please list their names and positions

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For technical assistance please contact:

Mandy Smoker Broaddus

Indian Education Implementation Specialist

(406) 444-3013

[mbroaddus@mt.gov](mailto:mbroaddus@mt.gov)